

Almon Brown Strowger collection

S1268

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

April 26, 2017

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
317-232-3671

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical Note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents</u>	4
<u>Arrangement</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	5

Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Title	Almon Brown Strowger collection
Date	1902-1939
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Text [Folder]	S1268

Preferred Citation

Almon Brown Strowger collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Biographical Note

Almon Brown Strowger was born in Penfield, New York, on February 11, 1839. On March 10, 1891, he obtained a patent for his "Automatic Telephone Exchange," which was called the Strowger switch. In 1897, he married Susan (1846-1921), his second wife, and resided in La Porte, Indiana. He died on May 26, 1902 in St. Petersburg, Florida, and is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery.

Scope and Contents

There are two items in this collection. The first item is a photo of the gravestone of Almon B. Strowger in Greenwood Cemetery, St. Petersburg, Florida. The information below the picture was typed by W. H. Adkins, 3118 East 102 Street, Cleveland, Ohio. He wrote: "Under this stone of the unkept grave lies the dust of what was mortal of Almon B. Strowger; who died May 26th 1902. Friends say he died with a broken heart; for 1898 he sold his dream of 1887 to Leon Bailey for ten thousand dollars and went to St. Petersburg, Florida. He often remarked in his long period of sickness he would never live to see what he was dreaming."

The second item is an article from *Science and Invention* entitled "A Fortune From A Collar-Box." In the center of the page is a picture of Strowger's First Automatic Switch. The article explains that Almon Strowger used a pasteboard collar box, some pins, and a lead pencil to put together "the first automatic telephone device forty years ago." The first installation of Strowger's automatic switching device, which made the telephone operator unnecessary for local calls, was installed in La Porte, Indiana, where Almon lived.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing and finding aid completed 2017/3/9 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- LaPorte (Ind.)

Personal Name(s)

- Stowger, Almon Brown, 1839-1902

Subject(s)

- Telephone--History--Indiana